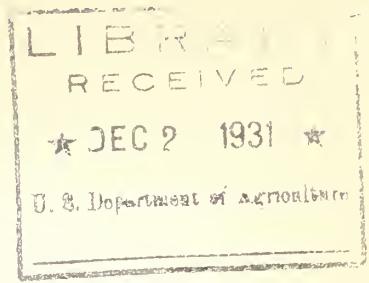


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STEM RUST AND BARBERRY NEWS

Issued by

Division of Barberry Eradication

Volume II

November 15, 1931

Number 14

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Bureau of Plant Industry
U. S. Department of Agriculture

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BARBERRY INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH SOUTH DAKOTA
4-H CLUB CAMPS - 1931.

By George M. Frandsen, Assistant
Leader of Barberry Eradication in South Dakota.

Boys and girls who gathered for 4-H club camps from various sections of South Dakota this summer received informational entertainment when the playlet, "The Trek of the Common Barberry" was presented to them. Additional information relative to barberry and black stem rust was given to the boys as a part of the special classroom instructional program.

Barberry eradication found a place in a total of 11 club camps. These camps were held at places wherein practically every part of the State was represented by several club members. During the course of the schedule a total of 2,049 people saw the playlet. Of this number, 555 were 4-H boys and 1,009 were 4-H girls. The remaining number consisted of people who were either visitors or instructors at the camps.

Preparation for the Playlet

In order to have a stunt or playlet of some type included in the program at club camps, it was necessary that it represent a worth-while subject. The barberry eradication playlet as suggested by H. M. Jones, State Club Leader, merited attention because it provided an educational feature as well as entertainment. It also was practical because it aided indirectly, at least, in eradicating barberry bushes in this State.

In making preparation for this playlet, it was realized that an author of a play must possess special faculties not commonly found. Therefore, it was necessary to acquire the cooperation of someone invested with play-writing ability. After the plans were proposed in regard to the type, length, and purpose of the act, it was decided that the story should pertain to the migration, spreading, finding, and destruction of the common barberry in a manner in which the youngsters would absorb it with a desire to help in the eradication program.

The plans were prepared as a result of the suggestions of several interested people. However, credit should be given Mr. G. D. George for preparing the playlet, and to Mr. Jones for writing the prologue. The costumes were furnished through the courtesy of the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust.

Others, including Messrs. Fletcher, Popham, Meier, and Bulger, offered valuable suggestions and aided in assembling the necessary equipment for its presentation.

In order to present the playlet, it was found that a total of nineteen characters were needed to make up the cast. These characters were 4-H boys and girls selected from the personnel of the various club camps.

A letter was sent to each camp manager a few days prior to the opening of the camp, asking him to select the cast. To aid him in his selection, a diagram and explanation of each character accompanied the letter. This information indicated the size and type of the cast, such as: number, sex, stature, and desirable acting ability. In selecting the cast before camp opened, a considerable amount of time was saved since the characters were assembled upon the arrival of the play director. The parts were then given and rehearsals of the play were quickly started. This type of organization was necessary in that several club camps were held in succession and occasionally two camps were held at the same time. In this manner a large number of camps was reached since only a day or two was necessary at each one.

Individual cards were prepared on which was printed the part each character was to memorize. These cards were given the boys and girls as early as possible in order that they would have plenty of time to study their parts before the act was presented. The playlet consists of eight memory sections and, with the exception of three people, no one has more than one short stanza.

Through the cooperation of the camp officials sufficient time was allotted for rehearsals. Since only about 20 to 25 minutes of time were necessary to present the act, several practice sessions were obtained by taking advantage of spare time allotted to members of the camp. The boys and girls did not resent giving up their spare time for practice purposes because they invariably enjoyed being actors and actresses. Dress rehearsals were held and supplied added enthusiasm to the practice periods.

The playlet was usually presented to the camp members and visitors during their stunt program, but occasionally it was found necessary to resort to another time for the presentation. This was the case when the director's schedule at another camp interfered. However, in spite of a rapidly moving schedule, a larger number of people were reached than would otherwise have been possible, if more time were taken at each camp.

In order that the characters could be dressed in their respective costumes quickly and neatly it was necessary that help be obtained. Assistance in this matter was secured through the good will of several instructors at the camp. After the playlet was finished, the costumes were assembled; checked to see if every part was present, and then packed, ready for use at the next camp.

An attempt was made at each presentation of the playlet to select those who played their parts especially well and include their names in a proposed all-star cast. This was done in view of the possibility of assembling the various stars from the several camps at some future gathering at which the playlet would be presented. By choosing a cast of characters who have already participated in the play and have done especially well, it seems that the performers could be sent on the stage with a better understanding of the ideas to be broadcast and a better ability to perform.

The Prologue

The following is a copy of the prologue written by H. M. Jones, State Leader of 4-H Club work in South Dakota.

Long ago the pilgrim fathers
Landed on a rocky shore
There to find religious freedom
Liberty forevermore.

(Enter Puritan Father)

First they built their lodges humble,
From the wood on all sides found
Cleared their acres for the ploughshare,
Then they tilled the fertile ground.

Indians friendly, Indians war-like
Watched their progress day by day
Helping, hindering, often wondering
If these folks had come to stay.

(Puritan Father exits)

Many times these sturdy settlers
Found their paths beset with thorns
But with grim determination
Guarded crops with powder horns.

Soon they had a little village
Bounded by the prairie wide.
Church and houses, streets and school yards
Could be found on every side.

Bare were the yards and roadsides
All the trees and brush removed.
Came a longing for the plantings
Of the homeland dearly loved.

So they brought from jolly England
Roots and seeds to grow a hedge
Bulbs and plants to add some color
And to cover barren ledge.

Beauty beamed in all their plantings
All were given watchful care,
Bushes flourished, flowers blossomed
In the crisp New England air.

Some grow better than the others
And a bush so tall and green
Highly prized in making hedgerows
Round each dwelling might be soon.

Seeds and slips were freely given
So that each a hedge might grow
Countless yards and roadways boasted
Of a noble barberry row.

(Puritan Father leads Barberry Bush in on stage,
leaves it front, exits).

In the trek of westward movement (Farmer comes in
Homos from wilderness to how, moves barberry
Families took their prized possesions, bush across stage,
And they took the barberry too. exits).

Over Allegheny Mountain
Over river, lake and hill
Pressing toward the open prairie
Virgin sod to break and till.

Soil so fertile, land so level
Nothing here to grub or chop
Break and sow was all it needed
And they raised a bumper crop.

Wheat became the standard grain crop
Forty bushels average yield,
Countless farms of countless acres
Prospered in this new found field.

(Farmer comes in
moves barberry
, bush across stage,
exits).

Years of plowing, sowing, reaping,
Made for farmers lots of wealth,
Years of happiness and plenty
Kept their families in good health.

Barren then those treeless prairies,
Welcome any shrub that grow,
Barberry thrived and settlers planted
Bushos round their homes anew.

Bright red berries, long green hedges
Of the barberry found a place,
On the farms of boundless prairies
Lending beauty, charm and grace.

Bush in farmyard, bush at roadside,
Very pleasing to the eye
Brought from farm to farm by neighbors
Green when other plants were dry.

Groves and orchards made appearance,
Shade and fruit were much in need,
And among most groups of shrubbery,
Some one placed a barberry seed.

Passing years brought many problems
 Yields of wheat were not so great
 Black stem rust seemed ever present
 Taking toll at rapid rate.

Many farmers often noted
 That the black stem rust was worse
 In the wheat fields that were nearest
 To the dreaded barberry curse.

Science backed them in their thinking,
 Found that what they said was true,
 Spores from pustules on the barberry
 Scattered o'er the wheat like dew.

(Enter Dr.Science
 stands between
 bush and grain).

Carrying all the dread infection
 Of the rust that eats the stem.
 Thus the wonder shrub of beauty
 Looked no longer good to them.

What to do was then the question
 Barberry grow on every hand,
 Seeds and sprouts and careless handling
 Carried it throughout the land.

Uncle Sam was called to action,
 Urged to rout the bush that harms
 So that grain might once more flourish
 On these fertile prairie farms.

(Enter Uncle
 Sam, confers
 with Dr.Science-
 Dr.Science points
 to barberry).

Uncle Sam had never failed them
 In a time of dire need
 And he wouldn't fail them this time (Exit Dr.Science)
 Of their pleadings he took heed.

Scouts well trained in plant detection
 Combed the country far and wide
 Found the barberries and destroyed them
 Millions of the bushes died.

Crushed rock salt, spade and grub-hoe
 Working many hours a day
 Bring the haughty foe to justice
 Banished from our land to stay.

If we're to complete the victory
 Everyone must do his best
 When a bush is found, report it,
 Uncle Sam will do the rest.

Many barberries still are growing,
 Passing years will thin their ranks (Grain, barberry,
 Everyone who helps to fight them Uncle Sam, and
 Wins the nation's heartfelt thanks. reader, all exit).

The Playlet

The following is a copy of the playlet which was originally prepared by G. D. George, United States Department of Agriculture, St. Paul, Minnesota. Slight changes have been made in a few of the verses and some additions were deemed necessary.

THE TREK OF THE COMMON BARBERRY

(Reading of Prologue before curtain goes up)

Enter Puritan father leading barberry bush; places it left front; speaks lines:

"I am a Puritan father, and
 I've gone to considerable bother
 To bring this bush from across the sea.
 The leaves make good medicinal tea,
 We color our clothes with bark for a dye
 And the berries make wine, good jelly, and pie.
 Is this some bush? Well, rather."

Retires to back of stage.

Enter farmer leading sheaf of grain; places it right front; speaks lines:

"I am Farmer Brown
 I work from sunrise to sundown,
 I raise rye and oats and barley and wheat
 To furnish our people with food to eat.
 I raise fine cattle for milk and beef,
 But I can't seem to raise any farm relief.
 Oh, I am Farmer Brown."

Retires to back of stage.

Barberry speaks lines:

"I am the common barberry,
I am not as good as I look to be.
I harbor stem rust and send spores to the grain,
I blast it, with help from the sun and the rain.
I send the birds with my seeds broadcast
So my numbers increase very fast.
I am a casualty."

My career began with the Puritan Father
But soon my family reached out much farther
From east to west, from north to south,
My berries ripened in spite of drought,
Soon my numbers increased my fame,
And now I'm found in many a lane.
They say I'm a nuisance."

Weather man enters from right. Speaks lines:

"Old man weather is my name.
My picture would hang in the halls of fame
If it wasn't that unintentionally
I sometimes do damage to plant and tree
And black stem rust blackens my name
By using my wares to help in his game.
I am just Old Man Weather."

Spores enter from left, march around barberry bush, then around grain. They then form chain from barberry to grain, with last man choking the grain. Weather man sprinkles grain with water, and shines on it. He then retires to back of stage.

Grain speaks lines and acts ill:

"I am the grain, and
I'm suffering pain
My little insides are bursting wide,
While rust pustules just cover my hide.
Oh, Oh, Oh, they're choking me so
And drying my juices so I can't grow.
My hopes are all in vain."

At first I hung in the halls of fame
 Because I was full of bright, plump grain;
 Ere long my kernels began to shrink;
 This caused the farmers to stop and think,
 Is the weather the cause for all this grief,
 Or is another the culprit and thief?
 This problem needs consideration."

Dr. Science enters from right, speaking lines and examining grain:

"Oh, I am a student of science
 In my findings wise folks place reliance.
 This grain, poor thing, is exceedingly ill
 And it's quite beyond the help of a pill.
 It suffers much and grows thinner and thinner,
 That barberry bush and its rust is the sinner.
 There it stands showing deficiency."

Retires to back stage with others who are joined by farmer and Puritan father, all lining up.

Enter farm boys from left. Speak lines:

"We are merry farmer boys
 Grown beyond the need of toys.
 We're hunting the common barberry.
 Can that be one? We'll go and see.
 Saw-edged leaves, spines are three,
 Berries red, it's a barberry!
 To Uncle Sam we'll make a noise."

Examining bush. Enter Uncle Sam and three eradicators from right. Uncle Sam speaks lines:

"I am your Uncle Samuel
 Come to me and your troubles tell.
 With my eradicators three
 I make short work of barberry.
 Pour the salt upon its crown
 Soon the bush is cut and down.
 The battle is won!"

Eradicators go to bush; pour salt on its foot. Bush keels over and dies. Spores all fall dead.

"Boys come here
You've a story to hear,
Your performance was splendid,
And for services rendered
I present this medal, the honor is mine
You may wear it and keep it for all time.
Let's all be merry."

Remainder of cast join hands and dance.

-- Curtain --

A Contest

Another part of the staged program was that of distributing a card to each boy and girl. In explaining the purpose, it was mentioned that a contest was about to begin and urged that each member of each group of county representatives at camp should enter as a contestant. Each card revealed the possible hiding places of barberry bushes and it suggested that by looking in those places more bushes may be discovered which would increase the total for the county. This would give the county a better chance to win a prize when the number of locations were added together. A second prize to be awarded to the county returning the largest number of cards was mentioned. It was said that the prizes would be presented to the winning counties at the Junior Short Course, which is held during the winter months. This group consists of 4-H members who have achieved special mention and have been asked to attend the short course.

The cards were to be returned to Brookings on or before a definite date set at each camp. That date limited the time for hunting to about one month. The necessary identifying characteristics which would assist the hunter in detecting the shrub among many others was also included on the card. During the course of 11 camps a total of 1,441 cards was distributed to the boys and girls. It seemed appropriate to distribute these while the people were still thinking of barberry and also to explain thoroughly the desire of our nation to be relieved of the barberry and stem rust burden.

To date (November 5) the number of cards returned is less than 100. This is not a very encouraging showing, and it is very doubtful if the prizes mentioned will be given. Apparently a different method of distributing these cards would add to the percentage returned.

Class-room Instruction of
Barberry and Black Stem Rust.

The educational entertainment as presented in "The Trek of the Common Barberry" was accompanied by class-room instruction pertaining to barberry and stem rust. This type of informational material was prepared for instructional work in the various sections composed of 4-H club boys.

In arranging the schedule for camp visitations, cooperation was received from the 4-H club officials in placing barberry and stem rust instruction at suitable periods in order that the time element would not interfere with a scheduled visit to another camp.

Instructional material was composed of information relative to barberry and black stem rust, smuts, and scab. These diseases were selected since they are usually the most destructive ones which attack the small grain crops of South Dakota and therefore provided valuable information of interest to the boys. Subject matter on these diseases was included in the talk entitled "Diseases of Cereal Crops." A large percentage of the boys live on farms and have witnessed these diseases in their father's crops, especially the more prevalent rusts and smuts. This fact strengthened their interest and desire to learn to combat epidemics of diseases which annually take a portion of the grain grower's income.

Charts, diagramed and colored to represent the grain and pathogenic organisms, were used and rikor mounts of diseased plants were also exhibited. Specimens of common barberry and even living bushes were shown the students in order to make the class-room discussion more realistic instead of theoretical.

The talk was designed to include the economic importance, history, life stories, control measures, and an appeal was made to the group to aid in the finding and reporting of rust-spreading barberries. By entering into the purely instructional side of the barberry informational program, the boys as a whole realized the necessity of barberry eradication. They were given a goodly number of facts which were backed up and driven home by the characters acting in the playlet.

A total of 555 boys received instruction in diseases of cereal crops in a series of 24 meetings. Their attitude was as a rule good.

Value of this Project

The value of working with boys and girls in regard to the eradication of barberry is quite difficult to estimate. It may be measured by the number of barberries reported by boys and girls who receive informational material, but it seems to have a farther and more lasting effect. The boys and girls who took part in the presentation of the playlet should always remember about the barberry and stem rust. In addition, those who saw the playlet given will also remember it.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
In Agriculture and Home Economics
State of South Dakota

Extension Service

Brookings, South Dakota
August 25, 1931.

Mr. R. O. Bulger, In Charge
of Barberry Eradication,
District No. 2,
State College.

Dear Mr. Bulger:

Upon my return I find your questionnaire of August 4, in regard to the playlet "The Trick of the Common Barberry." I saw it presented only twice and that was early in the season so I am not sure that I can give you very accurate impressions. Taking up your questions in order I would answer as follows:

1. I think the playlet has a distinct educational value and is presented in a manner which the club members understand.
2. I think there is no question but what the boys and girls received information enabling them to understand the life cycle of rust and the importance of destroying common barberry.
3. I believe that the prologue would be better if it were shorter. However, for the playlet itself, I think the length is about right. It seemed to sustain the interest all the way through.
4. The costumes seemed very good and appropriate for the occasion. I could suggest no changes.
5. I think the poetical style gives the playlet a swing which could not be secured through prose.

6. The only way to improve the presentation of the act as I see it, would be to have more time for preparation. It would be impossible to do this, however, where the director must make three or four camps per week. It might be better to limit the presentation to two camps per week and thus allow two or three days for preparation.

All the camp officials with whom I have come in contact are enthusiastic about this type of work and liked the way in which it was put on. Their only regret was that the preparations were necessarily hurried.

From our own standpoint we certainly appreciate the work of yourself and Mr. Frandsen in putting this across in such a nice manner, serving both as entertainment and education for the club members attending camps.

Very truly yours,

H. M. Jones,
State Club Leader.

Summary

1. Ten 4-H club camps were reached by "The Trek of the Common Barberry" and 11 received instructional material in the classroom.

2. The playlet depicted the migration, spread and the destructive qualities of common barberry bushes. It also encouraged the finding and reporting of barberries.

3. Instructional work for boys included rusts, smuts and scab, and informed them of the history, economic importance, life stories and control measures of the diseases.

4. Cards were handed to boys and girls in every camp asking their cooperation in looking for and reporting barberries in their communities.

5. The cost amounted to approximately 15¢ per person ---- 2,049 people were reached.

6. Generally favorable comment was received from those who heard the playlet presented.

7. It is believed that this type of informational entertainment can be used to good advantage in the future.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the assistance given by: Mr. H. M. Jones for writing the prelogue and for his cooperation in advancing barberry work before the 4-H club camps; Mr. G. D. George for preparing the playlet and helping with some of the costumes; the Conference for the Prevention of Grain Rust for purchasing the costumes; and to Messrs. F. C. Meier, W. L. Popham, and D. G. Fletcher for their helpful suggestions.

EASTERN REGION

Ohio - 8 East Broad Street, Columbus - Harry Atwood.

Survey activities for this season came to a close on November 6. Favorable fall weather through October and early November was an aid to our men in making rapid progress in the rural survey of Auglaize County. The territory was covered more rapidly and barberries were more easily seen than at any time since early summer. Before closing the field season an area of barberries was eradicated in Auglaize County which was discovered as a result of our barberry display at the Auglaize County Fair this fall.

Throughout the field season our eradication activities were confined, almost entirely, to Champaign, Logan, Shelby, and Auglaize Counties. In addition to the intensive survey of these counties barberry leads, which had accumulated in the office during the past year, were investigated. All bushes found as a result of this investigation were destroyed.

During the progress of the survey in these counties, our scouts were frequently told by farmers, how black stem rust had affected their small grain crops at various times throughout the years.

In the counties surveyed this summer, the percentage of small grain crops grown, ranges from 18% in Logan County to as high as 26% in Shelby County, of the total farm land area. Considering the fact that last spring there were 3,791 barberry bushes and many thousands of seedlings growing on 167 properties in these four counties, there is satisfaction in the thought that with these barberries destroyed a recurrence of black stem rust epidemics to crops in these counties is rather remote.

Very little black stem rust was found during the rust survey this year, in counties where the intensive second survey was conducted in 1930. This fact is rather encouraging since black stem rust was rather prevalent near known barberry areas this year.

Many of the bushes and seedlings destroyed this year were found growing in out-of-the-way places, along fence rows, banks of streams, pastures and woodlots. (November 12, 1931).

Illinois - Post Office Building, Urbana - Robert W. Bills

Mr. Davis will complete the resurvey of Lee County and the intensive school work during November. He has attended to several reports of bushes in Rock Island and Boone Counties recently.

The squads working on second survey in Kane and Du Page Counties and the squad working on resurvey in La Salle County returned to the office on October 29. Only the city of Elgin remains for second survey in Kane County and a few square miles of timbered areas in Du Page. (November 9, 1931).

Indiana - Purdue Experiment Station Annex, West Lafayette - W. E. Locr.

REPORT OF BARBERRY ACTIVITIES, INDIANA.

Field activities were discontinued October 31. During the year 2,086 bushes were found on 63 properties.

It has been possible, for the first time in many years, to investigate all of the leads on file. As a result of investigating these leads during the year, 82 bushes were found on 36 properties, and in addition 6, and possibly 8, new areas of escaped bushes were found but not worked. In other words, we are finding bushes faster than we can destroy them and do a reasonable amount of foot survey in areas of escaped bushes being worked. It is estimated that probably two thousand bushes will be found in the new areas mentioned.

The intensive school work was started in Morgan County November 2.

On November 5, the first of a series of letters was sent to the presidents of the Indiana chapters of the Izaak Walton League. (November 6, 1931).

Michigan - Michigan State College, East Lansing - Francis B. Powers

MICHIGAN ACTIVITIES

The Leader returned to his office November 2 after sojourning in St. Paul and Minneapolis during his annual leave. While there he had an opportunity to confer with Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Popham, and Dr. Molander.

Last Friday and Saturday the Leader placed a demonstration and talked to a group of farmers attending the annual community fair sponsored by the Bloomingdale High School in Van Buren County. The attendance was 350 on Friday and 400 on Saturday.

Mr. George S. McIntyre completed his visitation of the rural schools in Jackson County, and resigned October 31. As a result of school visitation this fall much interest has been manifested by boys and girls in the search for common barberry. Although not all of those writing to our office have found common barberry bushes, many are asking for descriptive bulletins and several have sent in samples of other plants. Since October 15 four additions have been made to the life membership of the N. R. B. C. in Michigan, which brings our total to forty-five.

The life cycle of black stem rust as it would appear on fresh material has been prepared and placed in the riker mounts we recently received. The aecial stage on well pressed specimens may be made to appear very natural by touching it lightly with an orange crayon. The uredonial stage usually dries rust red in color but if it is deadened somewhat, its color may also be emphasized by touching it with brown and red crayons. These are, of course, used only as wall demonstrations at community fairs. (November 9, 1931).

WESTERN REGION

District No. 1 - Post Office Building, Fargo, North Dakota.-G.C.Mayoue.

Montana and North Dakota:

"You must season statistics with judgment." - Walter S. Gifford.

This quotation, observed the other day, brought to mind the saying of a genetics professor who sought to discourage blind adherence to statistics. Said the man of many genes:

"There are three classes of liars: liars, lawyers, and statisticians."

No vaulting ambitions, we --- statistics are omitted.

Suffice it to conclude a general report of the informational work now being conducted in Montana by saying that the school-to-school visits that have been occupying the time of three men in Judith Basin and Fergus Counties have been concluded with the exception of the town schools in the latter. These are being visited at the present time as plans are being made to extend the activities into the adjoining county of Wheatland. Final decision will be reached in collaboration with the "weather man".

With informational work complete in one county and nearly so in two others, the past week saw activities extended to a fourth North Dakota county. It is expected that all such work will be completed before Thanksgiving vacation. By that time more than 14,000 North Dakota school children will have been reached by the informational activities begun October 1.

As if to counteract some of the widespread "drought talk" that has brought North Dakota to such headline prominence, the skies recently opened with a three day downpour that brought the State's precipitation nearer the normal mark. On the second day, and best by the rain barrel, arrived Mr. Popham. Next day, in company with District Leader Mayoue and assistant leader Roberts, he traveled to Bismarck to inspect a barberry demonstration at the State Corn Show, then in progress. That evening Mr. Popham left for Bozeman to confer with Collaborator Morris and other State College officials. Come again.

* * * * *

Be careful with those "Dangerous Neighbors."

Immediately after concluding his visit in a school, one agent had occasion to step back inside for some information. There he noticed one small boy, face on his desk, crying softly. Inquiry developed that the little chap had not received a folder -- the boy next had two. Adjustment was made, and the sobs subsided.

* * * * *

* * * * *

There's competition in the offing for some barberry agent.

The other day one George Charles Mayoue, Jr., aged 5, quoried his fathor:

"Daddy, do you know what I'm going to do when I get big?"

Only a mind reader could have guessed -- no mind reader is "Daddy" Mayoue.

"I'm gonna work for you an' drive a Government truck an' look for barberry bushes an' other darn things." Oh. Oh.

(What? This ISN'T the Sonny Savings Department?)

* * * * *

Time was when the Montana traveler returned with glowing tales of gold, copper, oil, sheep or "Western hospitality". Well, here are a few modern ones brought back recently by the District Leader:

It has not been long since the lunch counter became as much of a drugstore fixture as the prescription case.

Now an enterprising Montana gas station attendant takes the lead in a movement that may result in a one-stop service for car and driver.

Planning to eat their noonday lunch in a small town of about 200, the District Leader and Agent Zeidler arrived to find some six stores but not a place to eat. Finally the cookie and cracker cases, cheese boxes and pickle barrel of one grocery had yielded enough of their contents so that the two itinerant workers were seated in front of the store making the best of their improvised bill of fare.

Dryly crunching cracker crumbs, the two were surprised to hear the following invitation from a passerby:

"If you care to come down to the filling station on the corner, I'll be glad to make you some tea."

* * * * *

Generally speaking it has always been assumed that the prerogative of tempermental endeavor has been reserved to those in the pursuits of the artistic. Well, perhaps cooking is an "Art" but are some cooks "artists"? Anyway, here's the story:

Stopping in another small town for their lunch two of the men on informational work entered the hotel and hung their hats, expecting lunch and perhaps a bit of the publicized "Western hospitality". Seeking the center of culinary activity the men inquired if dinner was ready.

"Oh, I guess I'm not going to serve dinner today. I've got company" was the "artistic" reply.

* * * * *

Somewhat unique is the Montana school whose total enrollment is that of two small boys who attend the regular sessions conducted by their older brother. Rust Busters all.

* * * * *

Giving cooperation as well as asking for it, the agents working Fergus County have gathered from the children statistics on the number of farmers who treat their grain for smut. Easily picked up as the talk touched upon plant diseases in general, the information was appreciated by County Agent Jones whose support of the informational work in the schools has been very helpful.

* * * * *

Many are the devices that the agents use in establishing themselves with their youthful audiences.

To a small rural school in the mining district near Stanford went Agent Zoidler to tell the story of rust. As he was introduced by the teacher he continued to gaze out of the window. Finally his curiosity seemed to get the better of him. Pointing to the nearby smelter, he turned to the group and inquired,

"Is that a flour mill out there?"

"No, that's the smelter", came the answer in a chorus.

Followed a bit of conversation and then another question.

"On my way up here I crossed a small creek. Can anyone tell me the name of it?"

"Dry Creek", volunteered the entire group. No hesitation then as the conversation switched back through the previous mention of flour mills, wheat, and finally to black stem rust and barberries. (November 8, 1931).

District No. 3 - Agricultural College, Ft. Collins, Colo.-E.A.Lungren

STEM RUST AND BARBERRY NEWS

During the month of October, informational activities were carried on in two counties in Colorado. Mr. Shepherd devoted his entire time to working schools in Weld County while the District Leader visited many schools in Larimer County.

Three types of schools were visited and demonstrations given at each. Rural schools, sixth to eighth grades, high schools, Smith-Hughes classes and general science classes and in two cases student body assemblies; also freshman science and botany groups in one college. During this month 55 classes were visited and demonstrations given to 1,654 students.

In Weld County 47 classes or groups were met; the attendance totaling 1,406. Twenty-three Rust Buster Clubs were organized. Forty-nine Lesson Plan sets were given out, 14 slide sets, 49 literature file boxes, 568 Rust Buster buttons, 480 bulletins and some 200 specimens of rusted barberry leaves, wheat, etc.

Cost per school in Weld County	\$4.93
" " pupil " " "	.164
" " mile for travel	.36

The figures here stated for Weld County should not be taken as representative of what we expect the average "cost per school" to amount to. This difference is due to the fact that Weld County is very large and trips were made to far distant schools whenever possible during October in order to have as many of them worked before the severe inclement weather, common to this plains area in winter, sets in.

In Larimer County eight classes were visited with total attendance of 248 students. Eight Lesson Plan sets were given out, two slide sets, seven literature file boxes, 135 Rust Buster buttons, About one hundred bulletins, rusted wheat, and barberry specimens were distributed.

As the work was planned to concentrate the first month on first visitation of schools while the leaves are still on most of the shrubs, the second or "check back" visit was only made at four schools; these schools being in Larimer County. One property was reported by a student at one of these schools.

It was interesting to note that in Weld County an especially keen reception was given the Rust Buster Club idea due to the fact that the school health authorities give certificates to the students for certain standards of health and activity. A membership in the Rust Buster Club is accepted as one "point" toward a certificate.

The District Leader and Mr. Shepherd visited several schools together in order to study methods of presenting the subject to different types of schools. The following methods were tried: lantern slide lectures, film strip lectures, and discussion method by using the blackboard and large colored pictures.

The latter seems to arouse the most interest in grade and Smith-Hughes schools as all the students take part in the discussion.

Following each meeting the materials and Lesson Plans are left with the teachers who plan to take up the study in detail. In the Smith-Hughes classes it is planned to work in a field trip sometime during the year. (November 5, 1931).

